

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
With Ferrin Cox

Judges seek help in remedying juror problem

Guest Editorial by Judge Thomas E. Head, III



Thomas E. Head, III

I am writing to disseminate information which hopefully will generate the dual benefits of educating the public generally, including those individuals who are potential jurors, and assisting the judiciary in remedying a chronic problem we are now experiencing in conducting jury trials in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit.

Perhaps I only state the obvious when I say that some of our potential jurors who were summoned for jury duty failed to appear without a lawful excuse. Although no judge dislikes exercising the contempt power, attorney change probably will not be affected without resorting to such measure. The judges have conferred and we are unified in our commitment to bring about a resolution of this situation, as we believe it is an unfair burden for only a small percentage of our citizens to render this important civic duty. We recognize that people often have personal and business conflicts which interfere with jury service, and we will most certainly continue to make every effort to accommodate them.

(a) Upon receiving a summons to report for jury duty, any employee shall on the next day he is engaged in his employment exhibit the summons to his immediate supervisor, and the employee shall thereupon be excused from his employment for the day or days required in his serving as a juror in any under the influence and one public intoxication.

The public might well benefit

from knowing that (a) no potential juror is exempt from jury

service; (b) failure to obey a jury summons will result in a contempt citation for which a fine of \$100.00 and 10-day jail sentence may be imposed;

(c) notwithstanding the

excused absence provided in subsection (a) of this section, any full-time employee shall be entitled to his usual compensation received from his employer;

and (d) full-time employees are entitled to their usual compensation less the fee or compensation he received for serving as such juror.

(c) It shall be the duty of all persons paying jurors their fee or compensation for services to issue to each juror a statement showing the daily fee or compensation and the total fee or compensation received by the juror.

Section 12-16-8. Excuse of employees from jury service: compensation to during jury service; issuance to jurors of statement showing fee or compensation for jury service.

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paying jurors their fee or compensation for services to issue to each juror a statement showing the daily fee or compensation and the total fee or compensation received by the juror.

Section 12-16-8.1. Discharge of employee on jury duty if forbidden; when employee must return to work; employee's cause of action upon discharge; damages; provision supplemental to other law.

(a) No employer in this state

may discharge any employee solely because he serves on jury duty if he is engaged in his employment exhibited the summons to his immediate supervisor and the employee shall thereupon be excused from his employment for the day or days required in his serving as a juror in any under the influence and one public intoxication.

(b) The provisions of this section

are supplemental to any statutes existing or to be enacted in the future, that are designed to protect and safeguard a citizen's right and duty to serve on a lawful jury, and the provisions of this section shall not repeat or supersede the provisions of any law not directly

protecting the influence and one public intoxication.

The following arrests were

made: one for failure to pay one

for violation of the non-operating

vehicle ordinance, one for

domestic violence, one for

trespass, one for gasoline

three for harassment, one for

payment for gasoline, one giving

a false name, two for driving

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CHURCH NEWS

First Baptist Church of Enterprise to host On Mission Celebration Fair and Rally

First Baptist Church of Enterprise will host an On Mission Celebration Fair and Rally on Saturday, April 13. The rally will begin at 6:30 p.m.

On Mission Celebration youth rally to be held at Ino Baptist Church

April 12 an On Mission Celebration youth rally will be held at Ino Baptist Church. The rally will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service to be held at Westside

The Men's Ministry of Westside Baptist Church will host their annual community-wide Easter Sunrise Service. The worship time will begin at 6:00 a.m., March 31, with Rev. Kenneth Harrison, interim pastor of Westside, giving the message.



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT...?

A Service of the Elba Church of Christ

Did Methuselah really live to be 969 years old before he died?

"And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah; And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him: And Methuselah lived an hundred eighty and seven years, and begat Lamech: And Methuselah lived after he begat Lamech seven hundred eighty and two years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty and nine years: and he died" (Genesis 5:25-27).

The Bible clearly states that Methuselah lived to be 969 years old before he died. If the Bible is, as it claims to be (2 Timothy 3:16-17), the word of God, then Methuselah did live 969 years before he died. For the sum of God's word is truth, therefore, if Methuselah did not live to be 969 years old, then God's word is a lie.

So, how could it be that a man lived to be 969 years old, when around the world it is seen as a great accomplishment for a man to live 100 years? Two explanations are usually given to try to discredit the fact that Methuselah lived to be 969 years old. The first one is that the years stated in Genesis 5 are not referring to us as standard years, but most likely only to months. If this supposition is true, then Methuselah would have been born in Genesis 5 would have been beginning children at the age of 5 years or so. The second explanation to try to discredit the statement of years man is said to have lived in Genesis 5 is that there must be generation gaps in the amount of time that is recorded. But as it is recorded in Jude 14, Enoch, the father of Methuselah, is the seventh from Adam, which means there are no generation gaps in Genesis 5. Methuselah really did live to be 969 years old before he died. It is most likely that man was able to live this long due to the climate conditions of the world before the flood.

For after the flood, as it is recorded in Genesis 11, men began to live shorter amount of times on the earth.

- Jiminy Simmons

If you would like to submit a question for consideration to be used in this column, please send it to: "Questions and Answers," c/o Elba Church of Christ, P.O. Box 269, Elba, AL 36323. We invite everyone to send the services of the Elba Church of Christ. Please call 897-2057 for times of services.

Church Directory

IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN

ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Sam Totten, Pastor
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study - 1:00 p.m.
Even. Worship - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service - 6:30 p.m.

BETHELICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Elder Eddie Copes, Pastor
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Tue. Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. John D. Baker, Pastor
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:30 a.m.
Wed. Bible Class - 6:30 p.m.

BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH
Elder Smith, Pastor
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service - 7:00 p.m.

BRONKLYN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Larry Gill, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Even. Worship - 6:00 p.m.

CHESTER GROVE METHODIST
Rev. Larry Gill, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays
Morn. Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Even. Worship - 6:00 p.m.

ELBA BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Service - 6:15 p.m.

ELBA DELIVERANCE TABERNACLE
Allen Richards, Pastor
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.

ELBA TEMPLE COGIC OF PROGRESS
Jimmy Simmons, Minister
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship - 6:00 p.m.

GREATER NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
Willis L. Petersen, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.

FRIENDSHIP HOLINESS
Andy Marler, Pastor
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.

FRIENDSHIP OF CHRIST
J. E. Wesley, Pastor
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.

HABERSON BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. John D. Baker, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.

HARRIS TEMPLE COGIC
Rev. Ben McLean, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.

HAW HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Shirley Ellis, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.

HEBBON BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. John D. Baker, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.

HERZLON BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. John D. Baker, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.

INDIANAS BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. John D. Baker, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.

INDO ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Wesley D. Ard, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.

INDO BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. John D. Baker, Pastor
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SPORTS

Views from....

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Not that many years ago I would load the girls up on the weekends and head out to a ball field to pitch them balls and hit them grounders and flies until they were too tired to move. Well, all that has certainly changed, because last weekend we headed out and this time Dad had to hide behind a screen and use a pitching machine to avoid getting killed as the girls took their turns at bat. I did hit the balls back to them after the bucket was empty. However, this time it was Dad that was the first one to call it quits after only two hours of work. It is great the girls are filled with energy, because now they have to carry the balls and bats off the field when we get through.

SWINGS AND MISSES....

*** The Elba Tigers claimed three big wins last week to up their record to 5-1 and appear to have momentum on their side heading into the upcoming spring break and then into the area schedule. The Tigers handed rival Zion Chapel its first loss of the season early in the week, then disposed of Ariton and Samson to run their winning streak to four games. Elba's gloves continued to struggle at times in all three wins, but the Tigers' bats were hot as they scored a total of 34 runs in the three games to light up the score board. After six losses it looks like the Tigers have the pitching and hitting to play with anybody on their schedule, and if they can tighten up on defense, the bats will be even more very well on the way. The Elba junior varsity entered the week with an 0-1 slate and fell to 0-2 after a big loss to Zion Chapel, but the Elba young stars turned things around late and defeated Ariton and Samson to even their record at 2-2. The Tiger JV team got off to a late start and ran into some teams that were in mid-season mode, but after a few games under its belt began to settle down and managed to post two big wins. Now that the weather has begun to warm up it looks like the Tigers and JV Tigers are also heating up and on the prowl for more wins.

*** The Elba Lady Tigers suffered two lopsided losses last week to fall to 0-3 on the year, and just can't seem to catch a break as they continue their trek into the world of fast-pitch softball. In last week's losses, the Lady Tigers struggled both at the plate and in the field, and the results were very predictable. Eighth-grade pitcher Stephanie Baxley did look good in relief in both outings and will help to carry the load, while Hannah Martin, the Lady Tigers expected #1 pitcher, will be back after the spring break and hopefully will give the Lady Tigers a 1-2 rotation on the mound. The key will be the pitching. However, until the Lady Tigers can stop making errors and start hitting the ball consistently, the wins will continue to be hard to find. The Lady Tiger JV lost its only game of the week to 2-2, and like their counterparts, made far too many mistakes to win. These youngsters have proven they can compete against the teams on their schedule, but must get better every time they hit the field if they hope to add to their win totals. The Elba girls will get a break next week from spring vacation, and maybe the break will give the girls a chance to rest up and they will come back with a renewed spirit and determination as they get into the meat of their schedule.

*** The Elba golf team is off and running again this season and last week won a four-team match against a 4A team, a 5A team and a 6A team. The Tiger golfers placed third in the state last year after a banner season and are looking to improve on that finish this year with almost the entire team back to compete. I know that golf is not really a spectator sport, but the Tigers are the top team around in the sport and definitely deserve credit for their hard work and excellent play.

*** The youth baseball and softball seasons are almost here, and if you ride by one of the parks you will see the fields loaded with youngsters as they work toward an April 8-season kickoff. The numbers are down in youth sports across the nation and the trend has hit here in Elba. However, it looks like the local leagues will include a total of 30 teams in the two sports, which isn't really that bad. These kids also deserve the support of all sports fans in Elba, and I urge everyone to make it a point to get out to the parks one night a week during the season to see the kids play. It is fun to watch, and your support will make it even more fun for them to play.

*** In closing...Charles Cole and his wife Barbara made the drive out to Kansas City last week to watch their son Kellen play in the NATA national competition, and even though Faulkner lost in the opening round, Coach Cole said he enjoyed the experience and was proud of the way Kellen played. The former New Brockton standout nailed five three-pointers to lead his team in scoring, and has big plans for his next two years as an Eagle. One thing Kellen is sure of, his parents are proud of his efforts and are his biggest fans.

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Hand Zion Chapel first loss

Elba Tigers ambush Rebels 14-5

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

The Elba Tigers spotted Zion Chapel an early 3-0 lead and then came packing back to defeat the previously undefeated Rebels 14-5, last Monday night in Elba.

The win upped Elba's record to 3-1, while Zion Chapel slipped to 3-1 with the loss.

Zion Chapel combined one hit with three free passes to score three runs in the top of the first to grab a quick 3-0 lead, and carried a 3-1 lead into the bottom of third after leaving the bases loaded in their half of the fifth.

The score was tied at 5-5 heading into the bottom of the sixth, when Marcus Henderson walked and later scored on an RBI single by Rick Smith to pull Elba back even at 5-5.

The score was tied at 5-5 heading into the bottom of the sixth, when Elba's bats came to life and the Tigers combined six hits with three passes to plate nine runs and take a big 14-5 lead! Brandon Petty and Kyle English singled to open the sixth for the Tigers, while a walk to Jason Curran loaded the bases with no outs. Back-to-back base hits by Marcus Henderson and Ralston Moore knocked in three runs to put the Tigers on top 8-5, while Petty and English later added their second hits of the inning to help the Tigers blow the game open en route to the big 14-5 win.

Brandon Petty got 3 hits, scored 3 runs and collected 2 RBIs to lead Elba at the plate, while Kyle English, Marcus Henderson, Ralston Moore and Rick Smith all added 2 hits.

Brandon Petty got the win in relief as he pitched 3 innings and allowed no runs on 1 hit, while recording 5 strikeouts.

Petty tames Purple Cats

Elba rolls past Ariton 9-1

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

The Elba Tigers pulled ahead early and then slowly pulled away to defeat the Ariton Purple Cats 9-1, Thursday afternoon in Elba.

Arton bunched three hits together in the top of the first to take a quick 1-0 lead. However, Elba was also ready to swing its bats and scored two runs in the bottom of the inning to grab the lead for good at 2-1. Kyle English reached on a fielder's choice after a Brandon Petty single, then drove the Tigers to the base runner with one out, and after two innings, Elba was in control with a 5-1 advantage.

Consecutive two-out singles by Matthew Curran and Brandon Petty helped the Tigers extend their lead to 7-1 in the third, and Elba added two runs in the fifth, with the key hit being a two-out single by Brandon Petty, as the Tigers pulled on top 9-1 and cruised into the win.

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The Elba Clipper

Volume 105, Number 41

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, March 28, 2002

1 Section, 14 Pages

Wet/Dry referendum proposed to Elba City Council

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

On Monday night the Elba City Council heard plans for a wet/dry referendum in Elba. The announced purpose of the drive to legalize the sale of alcoholic beverages within the city limits is to raise revenue for the financially strapped local school system. The local school have suffered from declining enrollment following the two major floods that hit the area. Add to

this the continuing increases in the cost of locally funded teacher units (they automatically go up every time the state legislature approves a teacher pay raise). Several economic shocks that hit the local economy (day offs, business closings, recessions, etc.) have cut into the amount of local taxes available to the schools. Then with the system already under the above constraints, the entire Alabama education system was slapped

with a 6 percent funding proration last year.

The combination of the above problems have hurt the local school system badly, and there are more hits to come in the next fiscal year, as the enrollment drop will cost the system more state paid teacher units.

Local businessman Daniel Stephens addressed the council with the idea and wanted a resolution from the city fathers that "if such an election was held

and if the proposal passed, any and all taxes received from the sale of alcoholic beverages would go directly to the school system."

Stephens said he and others concerned with the school wanted to be able to honestly tell those signing the petition calling for an election that they were supporting more money for the schools. He added they had looked at a property tax, but even with the most successful effort to increase property tax, no money would get to the schools for two full years.

Stephens is a member of a self-appointed, volunteer group of six and sometimes eight local citizens who have been meeting together for several months researching various methods of increasing local support of the

schools. Even though he is a member of the school board, Stephens said he was not speaking as a school board member. He was the only member of the committee who happened to be directly associated with the schools.

The city council tabled the

matter until the next regular meeting, explaining they wanted to have a prepared resolution to review before actually voting on the matter. They instructed the city attorney to prepare a

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Elba BOE members receive positive financial statement

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

may even help pay off some of the back debt. Weeks qualified that statement with, "if we can avoid proration again this year."

School board members have spent much time discussing various ways to cut expenses and maintain the quality school system that now exists. Their discussions always include questions about upcoming years when expenses continue to rise and state teacher money drops due to lower enrollment.

Weeks said they planned to give paychecks early this week to the staff for a job well done.

The schools suffered about \$3,600 in storm damage recently, mostly roof shingles torn loose. The damage was insured, but with a \$500 deductible.

Board members heard Welding instructor Bruce Sasser explain the workings of his program. He showed photographs of completed projects and urged board members to look over the big truck the department recently got through MacArthur Tech and remodeled.

He added that the department is 90 percent self-supporting by selling fish cookers, BBQ grills, small trailers and other welding projects the students build as part of their training. There are presently 38 students in the program.

Weeks reported there is little interest within the staff for a retirement incentive proposal and recommended the board table the idea. Such a plan would pay career teachers who are eligible to retire, an extra three to five thousand dollars to go ahead and retire this year rather than next year. The theory was that during a downsizing it is better for that teacher to retire now than to be forced to release a good young teacher, who might have another job by the time the schools were again hiring replacements.

Commission renews MDI's contract for one more year

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Commission found itself Monday morning, Mar. 25 faced with the possibility of having to find a new medical emergency service provider as the current contract is nearing expiration.

Commission chairman Tom Crumley informed the members that the current contract with Coffee County EMS of Elba to provide emergency medical service to the residents of Coffee County will end April 30, and he said representatives from the company have indicated they will no longer be able to continue in the service.

"EMS states they are losing over \$4,000 per month because of low call numbers," said Charlie Webb, the Coffee County 911 board director.

Grimley said Webb was

helpful in negotiating the current contract with Coffee County EMS, and he has agreed to help the county as it looks at options now.

Webb said he has spoken with representatives from Coffee County EMS as well as other emergency medical service contractors. He said he is trying to get people interested in taking this project over and prevent the county from having to operate

it without an emergency medical service provider.

Webb said looking at some of last year's figures provided by Coffee County EMS, 55 percent

of the medical calls came over a three-month period from

the county and 60 percent of those calls were for individuals

who did not have insurance.

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